

Name: _____ Instructor: _____

Food for Thought: The Globalization of Agriculture

▶ ACTIVITY 2: GLOBAL SOURCES FOR YOUR LOCAL SUPERMARKET

Hundreds of years ago, the vast majority of people ate the food they grew, gathered, or caught by themselves or bartered with others in the community. In many places, especially in LDCs, this is still true today, but our food increasingly comes from faraway places. Don't take our word for it, however—go see for yourself.

In Activity 2, we ask you to do a little field research while shopping at your local supermarket, and while we're at it, we just might get you to try a new taste! Your assignment is to browse the aisles and look for products that were imported from a country other than the United States or Canada.

Some foods are imported because the environmental conditions to grow them do not exist in the United States and especially Canada. Others, however, are imported for economic or cultural reasons. Furthermore, in the past only nonperishable, packaged food products were imported because perishable products could not survive lengthy journeys. Today, however, inexpensive and fast long-distance transportation delivers perishable foods to your supermarket while they are still relatively fresh. For this reason, we ask you to find both perishable and packaged imports, some of which have domestic competitors (produced in the United States or Canada) and some of which don't.

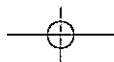
Important: Questions 2.1 and 2.2 involve a task to be done at your local supermarket, such as browsing the aisles recording data (2.1) and making a purchase (2.2). *Make sure that you have dealt with these questions before you leave the market.* Questions 2.3 and 2.4 can be answered at home.

2.1. In the following table, list four perishable food products and four packaged food products that were imported from countries other than the United States and Canada. Perishable products include fruit, vegetables, baked goods, meats, and dairy products. Packaged goods are boxed, bagged, canned, bottled, and contained in any other long-term packaging. Record brand names if any are given, as well as the name of the importer, if it is different. Also give the name of a similar domestic product if it is available and the comparable unit prices (per ounce, liter, pound, or kilogram).

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Product	Imported Product			Domestic Equivalent	
	Country of Origin	Brand Name (if any)	Unit price per ____	Brand Name (if any)	Unit price per ____
Perishable Product (4)					
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
Nonperishable Product (4)					
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					

2.2. Purchase one perishable imported item and one nonperishable imported item and tape their labels in the space below to verify your selection.



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2.3. For the imported products that have domestic competitors, speculate why people would buy the imported version over the domestic version. Use any clues that you can find (price, label, advertising, season, or quality).

2.4. For the imported products that do not have domestic competitors, speculate as to why they do not.

